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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Soviet Camps Near Szombathely

PLACE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE) 25X1A

DATE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

REPORT NO. 25X1A

RESPONSIVE TO	
25X1A	2

DATE DISTR. 23 Feb 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Soviet troops in the neighborhood of Kőszeg, Kőrmend and Szombathely participated in a maneuver of some importance during July 1953, and were probably assisted by troops from other summer encampments. The troops left their tent camps and moved in an easterly direction, leaving small guard units in the camps.
2. At the close of the maneuver in Aug 1953 Soviet billeting commissions appeared in the villages and notified residents that more buildings were to be seized as quarters for troops soon to arrive. These troops did in fact come, but remained for a few days only.
3. Crops and meadows were badly damaged by the maneuvers, but no damages were paid. As a result of this damage, crop quotas could not be met at the state collecting stations. The local kolkhoz head notified the Party leadership about this, and the Party entered an energetic protest against holding maneuvers before the crops were gathered. The Soviet Army command endorsed the protest.
4. In Aug 1953 a Soviet armored company with three armored cars and eight T-34/85 tanks occupied the Battyhány castle in Kőrmend.
5. At Kőszeg a unit with six armored cars arrived in Aug 1953 at the fortress barracks. These troops held day and night alarm exercises on the theme of beating off the attack of enemy parachutists.

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6. During Aug and Sep 1953 various **Soviet** formations moved through Kőszeg, Kőrmend and Szombathely from west to east. After a two-day rest in the barracks at these places they went out on alarm exercises to east or south. In the railroad stations of these places there were frequently visible trains of 30 or 40 cars carrying damaged guns or tanks. A considerable number of trucks were brought to Szombathely for repair, and all workshops had their hands full.
7. At the end of Sep 1953 new **Soviet** air units appeared at Vát Airfield, the men wore blue shoulder boards. A **Soviet** bus appeared in Vát with the number 1-1-46.. At this time there were 51 to 53 **Soviet** planes at the field, including 40 fighters, the remainder being ground support planes. During Oct 1953 there was great air activity at the field, and it was said that the units came from Austria and East Germany. Several houses were seized for the quarters of the air personnel, but their owners were assured that the occupants would remain only a few weeks. Car numbers observed belonged to the series:
- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1-11-.. | -5-50-.. | C-4-23-.. |
| 1-12-.. | B-1-13-.. | |
| -4-48-.. | C-4-20-.. | |
8. During the first half of Oct 1953 numerous **Soviet** planes landed at the Szombathely Airfield. These included a number of transport planes filled with soldiers, as well as some fighters. All came from the west and proceeded eastward.
9. There were no combined **Soviet**-Hungarian maneuvers. Hungarian troops in regimental strength were stationed in various summer camps, where the pace of their training was speeded up and numerous reservists were brought in for training.
10. Late in Oct 1953 various **Soviet** trucks were observed in the three towns with numbers belonging to the series B-1-13-..., B-3-32-..., E-2-11-...

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